

# DEATH STATISTICS

## CRUDE DEATH RATE

In 1999, the crude death rate for Lancaster County was 7.07 per 1,000 population. The average crude death rate between 1981 and 1999 was 7.01 per 1,000 population.

The crude death rate for the State of Nebraska during 1999 was 9.4 per 1,000 population. Figure 14 illustrates the death rates for Lancaster County and the State of Nebraska.

## TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS

There were 1,682 deaths among Lancaster County residents during 1999. Of these, 1,520 (90.4 %) were residents of Lincoln. The remaining 162 (9.6 %) resided outside the City of Lincoln. The most frequent months for death was February and October followed by March (Table 14).

## Race

Of the deaths in 1999, 1,627 (96.7 %) were among Whites, 24 were among Blacks, 17 were among American Indians, and 12 were among Asians. Non-White deaths accounted for 3.3 percent of total deaths.

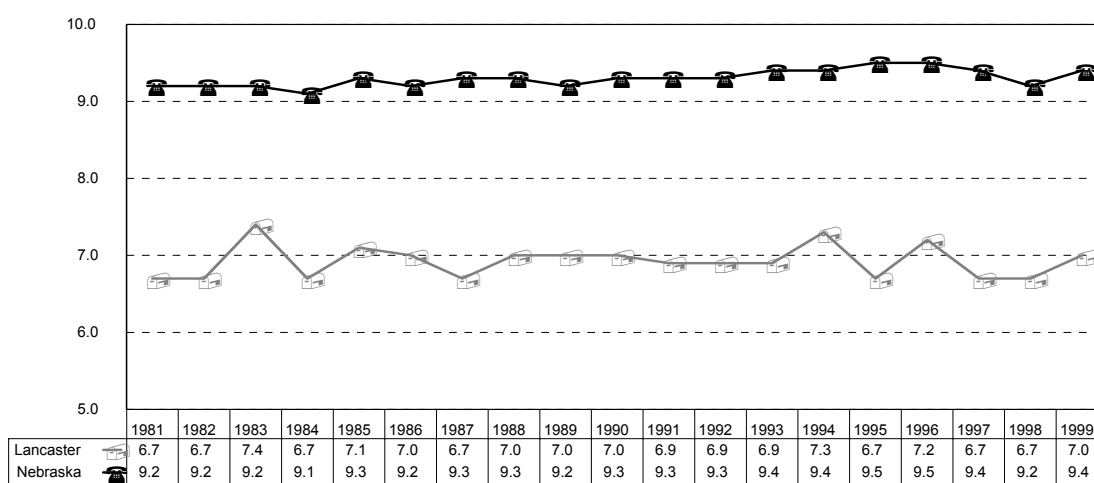
## Sex

During 1999, 46.2 percent of all deaths in Lancaster County were males, and 53.8 percent were females.

## Age

In 1999, 23 infants (less than 1 year of age) died, accounting for 1.05 percent of all deaths and an infant mortality rate of 6.4 per 1,000 live births (*See page 31 for further discussion of infant mortality*). A total of 39 children in the 0-14 year age group died in 1999, accounting for 2.3 percent of all deaths. The most frequent age group for

**Figure 14: Comparison of Death Rates**  
Lancaster County and Nebraska  
1981 to 1999



deaths was 80 to 89 years (32.3 % of all deaths) followed by 70 to 79 years (22.9 % of all deaths) (Table 16).

The mean age of death has decreased 0.3 years during the past decade. In 1999, the mean age of death for males and females was 68.7 and 76.3 years, respectively (Figure 15). For males, this represents a reduction of 0.3 years over the past decade (since 1989). The mean age of death for females increased 1.2 years from 1989 to 1999.

Using a five year rolling average (1995 to 1999), the mean age of death for White individuals (73.6 years) is approximately 19.0 years older than the mean age of death for individuals in other racial/ethnic categories (54.5 years).

**TABLE 14**  
**Deaths by Month**  
**Lancaster County 1999**

Month	No. Deaths	Percent
January	139	8.3
February	163	9.7
March	162	9.6
April	148	8.8
May	109	6.5
June	112	6.7
July	135	8
August	141	8.4
September	140	8.3
October	163	9.7
November	125	7.4
December	145	8.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1682</b>	<b>100</b>

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## LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

Cancer, for the first time, surpassed heart disease as the leading cause of death in Lancaster County. In 1999, a total of 419 deaths were due to cancer and 418 were due to heart disease. These two major causes of death accounted for half of all deaths (Figure 16). Table 17 details statistics on the leading causes of death in Lancaster County.

Table 15 lists the average age of death by sex by selected cause. The six leading causes of death in Lancaster County and Nebraska can be found in Table 18.

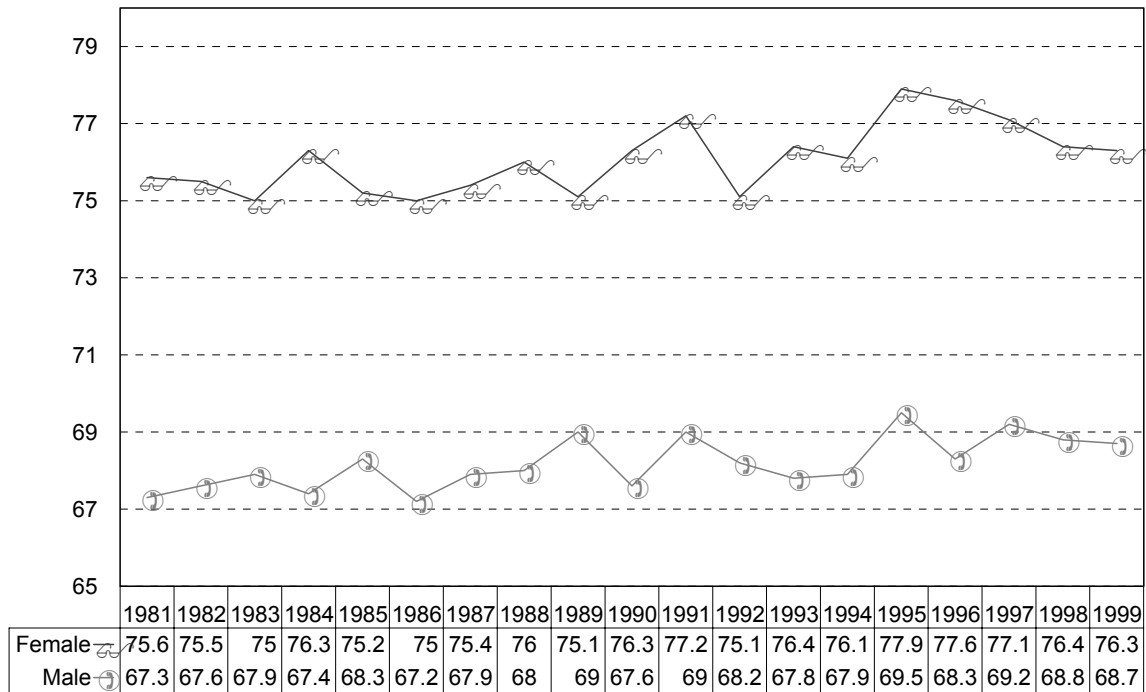
**TABLE 15.**  
**Average Age of Death**  
**by Sex by Selected Cause**  
**Lancaster County, 1999**

Cause	Male	Female
Heart Disease	72.5	78.1
Cancer	70.6	72.7
Cerebrovascular Disease	77	83.5
Accidental Deaths	47.2	59.7
Chronic Lung Disease	77.1	73
Pneumonia	73.5	88.6
Suicide	43.7	40

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**Figure 15: Mean Age of Death for Males and Females**

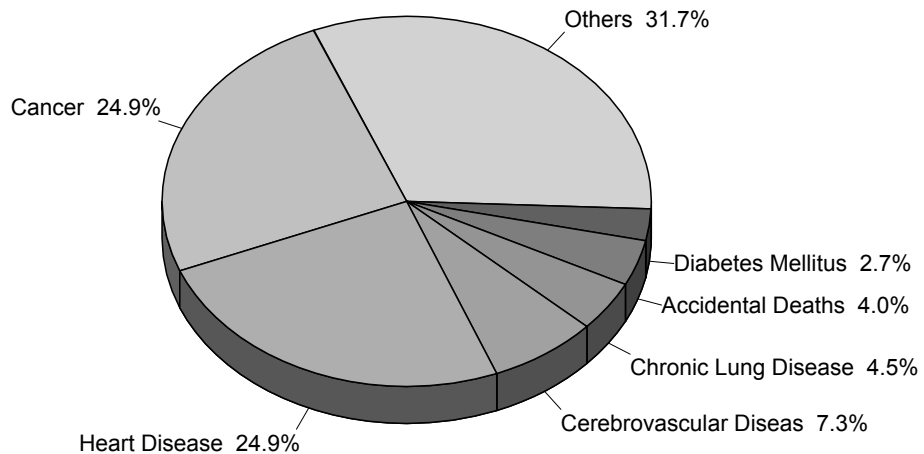
Lancaster County, NE  
1981-1999



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**Figure 16: Leading Causes of Death**

Lancaster County, NE  
1999



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**TABLE 16.**  
**Deaths by Age and Sex**  
**Lancaster County, 1999**

Age	Total Deaths	Percent	Male	Percent of Male	Female	Percent of Female
<1	8	0.5	2	0.3	6	0.7
1-4	20	1.2	11	1.4	9	1
5-9	9	0.5	6	0.8	3	0.3
10-14	2	0.1	1	0.1	1	0.1
15-19	13	0.8	9	1.2	4	0.4
20-24	8	0.5	7	0.9	1	0.1
25-29	12	0.7	6	0.8	6	0.7
30-39	43	2.6	28	3.6	15	1.7
40-49	74	4.4	51	6.6	23	2.5
50-59	100	5.9	60	7.7	40	4.4
60-69	224	13.3	126	16.2	98	10.8
70-79	385	22.9	203	26.1	182	20.1
80-89	543	32.3	206	26.5	337	37.2
90-99	241	14.3	61	7.9	180	19.9
>100	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1682</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>100</b>

Mean age of males: 68.7 years

Mean age of females: 76.3 years

TABLE 17.  
Leading causes of Death  
and Crude Rate per 100,000 Population  
Lancaster County, 1999

Cause of Death	Number of Total Deaths	Percent of Total Deaths	Crude Death Rate
Cancer	419	24.9	176.3
Heart Disease	418	24.9	175.9
Cerebrovascular Diseases	123	7.3	51.8
Chronic Lung Disease	76	4.5	32
Accidental Deaths	67	4	28.2
Diabetes Mellitus	45	2.7	18.9
Alzheimer's Disease	41	2.4	17.3
Parkinsons Disease	26	1.5	10.9
Pneumonia	26	1.5	10.9
Atherosclerosis	19	1.1	8
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	18	1.1	7.6
Emphysema	17	1	7.2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	17	1	7.2
Essential Hypertension and Hypertensive Renal Disease	15	0.9	6.3
Birth Defects	14	0.8	5.9
Pneumonitis due to Solids and Liquids	12	0.7	5
Septicemia	10	0.6	4.2
Aortic Aneurysm	10	0.6	4.2
Asthma	7	0.4	2.9
Peptic Ulcer	3	0.2	1.3
HIV	3	0.2	1.3
Nutritional Deficiencies	2	0.1	0.8
Hernia	2	0.1	0.8
Viral Hepatitis	1	0.1	0.4
Anemias	1	0.1	0.4
Tuberculosis	0	0	0
All other Causes	290	17.2	122
<b>Total</b>	<b>1682</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>707.7</b>

*Lincoln-Lancaster County 1999*

**TABLE 18.**  
**Comparison of the Six Leading Causes of Death**  
**Lancaster County vs. the State of Nebraska, 1999**

Lancaster County		Nebraska	
Cause of Death	Percent	Cause	Percent
Cancer	24.9	Heart Disease	28.8
Heart Disease	24.9	Cancer	21.9
Cerebrovascular Disease	7.3	Cerebrovascular Diseases	7.5
Chronic Lung Disease	4.5	Chronic Lung Disease	5.2
Accidental Deaths	4	Accidental Deaths	4.3
Diabetes Mellitus	2.7	Pneumonia	2.7

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### Age and Sex

Among males 0 - 29 years of age, MVT, suicide, and homicide were the leading causes of death (Table 19). For males and females 30 - 59 years old the leading causes of death were cancer and heart disease respectively. The leading cause of death for

males and females 60 and older was cancer.

Causes of infant mortality are listed in Table 23.

**TABLE 19.**  
**Three Leading Causes of Death by**  
**Age Group and Sex**  
**Lancaster County, 1999**

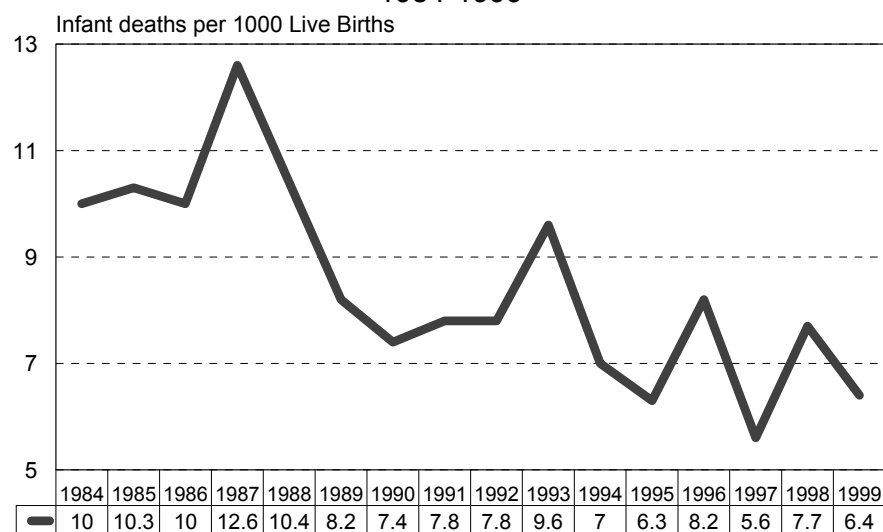
Rank	SEX	Age Category			
		0-29	30 - 59	60 & Over	All Ages
1	Male	MVT	Cancer	Cancer	Cancer
	Female	MVT	Cancer	Heart Disease	Heart Disease
2	Male	Sucide	Heart Disease	Heart Disease	Heart Disease
	Female	***	Heart Disease	Cancer	Cancer
3	Male	Homicide	Homicide	Cerebrovascular Diseases	Cerebrovascular Disease
	Female	***	Chronic Lung Disease	Cerebrovascular Disease	Cerebrovascular Disease

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# Figure 17: Infant Mortality Rate

Lancaster County, NE

1984-1999



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## Cancer Sites

Cancers of the lung, trachea and bronchus were the leading cause of cancer-related death among males, and females (Table 20). Lymphoid and colon/rectum cancer were the next leading causes of cancer death in men. Lung, trachea, and bronchus cancer were the leading causes of cancer death among women (Table 20). Cancer death rates are discussed on page 34.

## Suicide

Suicide by method and age category are shown in Table 21. The average age for male suicides was 29.61 years, compared to 23.5 years for females. Over one-half of suicide deaths (80.0 per cent) were among individuals 39 years of age or younger. In 1999, the crude rate for suicide was 6.3 per 100,000 population. This indicates great change from the 1998 rate of 12.3 per

100,000 population. The Lancaster County Health Objective for the Year 2000 is to reduce suicide mortality to an age-adjusted rate of 7.5 per 100,000 population.

## INFANT MORTALITY RATE

In 1999, 23 infant deaths occurred in Lancaster County for an infant mortality rate of 6.4 per 1,000 live births (Figure 17). This represents a decrease from the 1998 infant mortality rate (7.7 per 1,000) in which 26 infant deaths occurred. The Lancaster County Health Objective for the Year 2010 is 5.0 per 1,000 live births. In 1999, 65.2% of infant deaths were male while the remaining 34.2% were female. A majority (69.6 per cent) of all infant deaths in 1999 were white (Table 22), a rate of 4.9 per 1,000 white births. Seven infant deaths



among other races in 1999 translated into an in infant mortality rate of

20.5 per 1,000 non-white births. The leading cause of infant mortality was congenital anomalies (Table 23)

**TABLE 20.**  
**Cancer by Type**  
**Lancaster County, 1999**

Type of Cancer	ICD 10	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
Lung, Trachea, Bronochus	C33-C34	66	47	113	27
Colon/ Rectum	C18-C21	23	33	56	13.4
Lymphoid and Histiocytic	C81-C96	24	21	45	10.7
Breast	C50	2	31	33	7.9
Prostate	C61	21	0	21	5
Pancreas	C25	5	9	14	3.3
Ovary/other Uterine adnexa	C56-C57	0	11	11	2.6
Brain	C71	6	5	11	2.6
Esophagus	C15	7	3	10	2.4
Stomach	C16	2	6	8	1.9
Bladder	C67	5	3	8	1.9
Liver	C22	4	4	8	1.9
Cervix Uteri	C53	0	4	4	1
Skin	C43	2	2	4	1
All other causes	...	37	44	83	17.4
Total	...	119	220	419	100

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**TABLE 21.**  
**Suicides by Type by Age Group**  
**Lancaster County, 1999**

Types of Suicide	0-14	15-29	30-44	45-59	60 & Over	Total
Fire arms and explosives	0	5	1	0	0	6
Hanging and Suffocation	1	4	0	1	0	6
Other And Unspecified Means	0	2	1	0	0	3
Poisoning by Solids or Liquids	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poisoning by Other Gases and Vapors	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	11	2	1	0	15

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## FETAL DEATHS

Twenty one fetal deaths were reported in 1999, representing a fetal death rate of 5.8 per 1,000 live births (Figure 18). This is at an increase from the 15 fetal deaths reported during 1998, in which a fetal death rate of 4.4 per 1,000 live births occurred.

## CRUDE AND AGE-ADJUSTED RATES FOR THE THREE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

### Heart Disease

In 1999, 418 (24.9 per cent of deaths) Lancaster County residents died of heart disease. These 418 deaths translate into a crude death rate due to heart disease of 177.9 per 100,000 estimated population. The average crude death rate for heart disease from 1995 through 1999 was 199.8 per 100,000. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services reported an average crude death rate for heart disease of 297.4 per 100,000 population for the State of Nebraska between 1995 and 1999.

The 1999 Nebraska Vital Statistics Report lists Nebraska's age-adjusted death rate for heart disease as 236.6 per 100,000 population for 1999, and 297.4 per 100,000 for 1995 through 1999. Using the same age-adjusted method, Lancaster County's age-adjusted death rates for heart disease were lower: 195.9 per 100,000 for 1999 and 199.8 per 100,000 for 1995-1999.

**TABLE 22.**

Infant Deaths by Race and Sex  
Lancaster County, 1999

Race	Male	Female	Total
White	9	4	13
Black	4	2	6
Other	2	2	4
Total	15	8	23

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**TABLE 23.**

Infant Deaths by Cause and Sex  
Lancaster County, 1998

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
Congenital Anomalies	5	2	7
Respiratory and cardiovascular disorders	3	3	6
Complications during pregnancy	2	1	3
Other	5	2	7
Total	15	8	23

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## Cancer

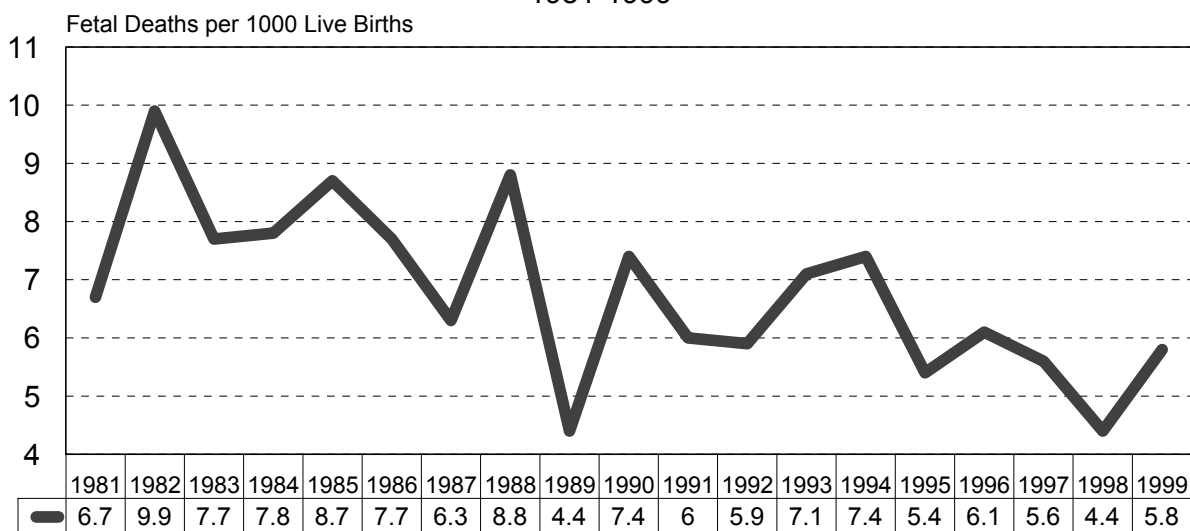
In 1999, 419 (24.9 % of total deaths) Lancaster County residents died of cancer. These 419 deaths translate into a crude death rate due to cancer of 178.3 per 100,000 estimated population. This compares to an average crude death rate of 168.3 per 100,000 population for 1995 through 1999, which is lower than the average crude death rate due to cancer of 203.6 per 100,000 estimated population for the State of Nebraska between 1995 and 1999.

The Nebraska Vital Statistics Report lists Nebraska's age-adjusted death rate for cancer as 191.6 per 100,000 population for 1999, and 187.1 per 100,000 for 1995 through 1999. It cites higher age adjusted rates for Lancaster County: 201.9 per 100,000 for 1999 and 186.4 per 100,000 for 1995 through 1999.

## Cerebrovascular Disease

In 1999, 123 (7.3 % of total deaths) Lancaster County residents died of cerebrovascular disease. These 123 deaths translate into a crude death rate due to cerebrovascular disease of 52.3 per 100,000 estimated population. This compares to an average crude death rate of 50.5 per 100,000 estimated population for 1995 through 1999. The average crude death rate due to cerebrovascular disease of 70.0 per 100,000 estimated population for the State of Nebraska between 1995 and 1999, was much higher than that of Lancaster County.

**Figure 18: Fetal Death Rate**  
Lancaster County, NE  
1981-1999



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The 1999 Nebraska Vital Statistics Report states that for the State of Nebraska the age-adjusted death rate for cerebrovascular disease was 60.5 per 100,000 population for 1999, and 59.0 per 100,000 for 1995 through 1999. Rates for Lancaster County were lower: 57.4 per 100,000 for 1999 and 53.8 per 100,000 for 1995 through 1999.

*\*Note: To compare death rates from different populations (Lancaster County and the State of Nebraska), age-adjusted rates are used.*

## DEATHS DUE TO UNINTENTIONAL INJURY

In 1999, 67 deaths occurred (4.0 % of total deaths) due to unintentional injury in Lancaster County. The average ages for male and female deaths were 47.2 and 59.7 years, respectively. Males represented 65.6 percent of all deaths, compared to 38.4 percent for females (Table 24). Motor vehicle traffic crashes (38.8 %) were the leading cause of deaths due to unintentional injury in 1998, followed by falls (26.9 %).

## DISPOSITION AND PLACE OF DEATH

The most frequent disposition of a body was burial (71.9 %), followed by cremation (25.6 %) (Table 25). The most frequent place of death was in a nursing home,

(38.3 %), followed by a hospital or medical center-inpatient (29.3 %) (Table 26).

**TABLE 24.**  
Unintentional Injury Deaths by Principal Cause  
Lancaster County, 1999

Principal Cause	Frequency
Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash	26
Falls	18
Submersion, Suffocation, or Foreign Bodies	12
Poisoning by Drugs	2
Other Unintentional Injury	9
Total	67

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**TABLE 25.**  
Disposition of Body  
Lancaster County, 1999

Disposition	Frequency	Percent
Burial	1210	71.9
Cremation	430	25.6
Removal	22	1.3
Donation	16	1
Unknown	4	0.2
Total	1682	100

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**TABLE 26.**  
Place of Death  
Lancaster County 1999.

Place of Death	Frequency	Percent
Nursing Home	645	38.3
Hospital or Medical Center Inpatient	493	29.3
Residence	357	21.2
Hospital or Medical Center Outpatient/ER	121	7.2
Other Facilities	59	3.5
Dead on Arrival at Hospital or Medical Center	6	0.4
Unknown	1	0.1
Total	1682	100

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**TABLE 27. SUMMARY OF RESIDENT DEATH STATISTICS FROM 1984 TO 1999, LANCASTER COUNTY, NE**

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
<b>NUMBER OF DEATHS</b>																
Lancaster County	1366	1432	1418	1399	1487	1508	1500	1494	1494	1512	1517	1537	1575	1563	1582	1682
Lincoln	1243	1331	1302	1274	1387	1394	1371	1370	1339	1410	1483	1409	1558	1488	1498	1520
Balance of County	122	101	116	125	100	114	129	124	155	102	134	128	117	125	114	162
<b>RACE</b>																
White	96.20%	97.40%	97.30%	97.50%	97.90%	97.90%	97.90%	98.20%	97.80%	97.40%	97.80%	97.70%	96.20%	96.20%	97.70%	96.70%
Black	1.40%	1.70%	1.80%	1.20%	1.30%	1.50%	1.70%	1.30%	1.50%	1.80%	1.50%	1.40%	2.40%	2.20%	1.30%	1.40%
Other	0.40%	0.80%	0.80%	1.30%	0.80%	1.00%	0.40%	0.50%	0.80%	0.90%	0.70%	0.90%	1.40%	1.50%	1.00%	1.80%
<b>SEX</b>																
Male	48.80%	50.00%	49.50%	48.90%	50.40%	50.10%	47.80%	46.50%	49.80%	48.30%	47.80%	47.50%	48.40%	46.40%	47.50%	46.20%
Female	51.20%	50.00%	50.50%	51.10%	49.60%	49.90%	52.20%	54.50%	50.40%	51.70%	52.20%	52.50%	51.60%	53.60%	52.40%	53.80%
<b>AGE</b>																
Under 1	2.30%	2.20%	2.10%	2.70%	2.10%	1.70%	1.50%	1.70%	1.50%	2.10%	1.40%	1.30%	1.60%	1.20%	1.60%	1.00%
1-14	0.70%	0.60%	0.80%	1.30%	0.40%	0.50%	1.10%	0.80%	0.90%	0.50%	0.90%	0.30%	0.70%	0.40%	0.80%	1.30%
15-29	2.40%	2.80%	3.10%	2.40%	2.20%	3.20%	2.50%	1.20%	2.80%	2.40%	2.00%	2.10%	2.10%	1.80%	1.50%	2.00%
30-44	2.80%	2.90%	3.70%	2.90%	3.90%	3.10%	4.60%	4.50%	5.20%	4.80%	6.10%	4.80%	4.40%	5.50%	4.40%	4.80%
45-59	9.60%	8.30%	9.30%	8.40%	9.10%	8.40%	8.40%	7.90%	7.90%	9.50%	8.80%	7.30%	9.60%	9.70%	10.30%	8.10%
60 & Over	82.10%	83.00%	81.00%	82.30%	82.30%	83.00%	81.90%	83.90%	81.60%	80.80%	80.80%	84.40%	81.80%	81.40%	81.40%	82.80%
<b>AVERAGE AGE AT DEATH</b>																
Male	67.4	68.3	67.2	67.9	68	69	67.6	69	68.2	67.8	67.9	69.5	68.3	69.2	68.8	68.8
Female	76.3	75.2	75	75.4	76	75.1	76.3	77.2	75.1	76.4	76.1	77.9	77.6	77.1	76.4	76.6
Total	71.9	71.7	71.2	71.8	72	72	72.1	73.5	71.7	72.2	72.1	73.9	73.1	73.4	72.8	73.3
<b>DEATH RATE</b>																
Deaths per 1000 Population	6.7	7.1	7	6.7	7	7	7	6.9	6.9	6.9	7.3	6.7	7.2	6.7	6.7	7.07
<b>INFANT DEATHS</b>	32	32	30	38	31	26	23	25	24	31	22	20	27	18	26	23
<b>INFANT MORTALITY RATE</b> (Deaths per 1000 Live Births)	10	10.3	10	12.6	10.4	8.2	7.4	7.8	7.8	9.6	7	6.3	8.2	5.6	7.7	6.4
<b>NEONATAL DEATHS</b>	19	23	22	22	16	16	13	13	10	19	16	17	17	13	21	16
<b>NEONATAL DEATH RATE</b>	5.9	7.4	7.4	6	5.4	5	7.4	4.1	3.3	5.9	5.1	5.4	5.2	4	6.2	4.4
<b>FETAL DEATHS</b>	25	27	23	19	26	14	23	19	18	23	23	17	20	18	15	21
<b>FETAL DEATH RATE</b>	7.8	8.7	7.7	6.3	8.8	4.4	7.4	6	5.9	7.1	7.4	5.4	6.1	5.6	4.4	5.8

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